

September 25, 1951.

Dr. C. E. Clifton,  
Department of Bacteriology,  
Stanford University,  
California.

Dear Dr. Clifton:

We are starting to do some serological work with the new interfertile strains of *Escherichia coli* described in the enclosed reprint. It would be gratifying to be able to use strain K-12 in this work, considering the backlog of information we have on this strain. Unfortunately, our cultures are extremely rough, and have almost completely lost their somatic antigen. I wondered whether you might not have a better culture, or might perhaps know whether it had been lyophilized in your laboratory or elsewhere prior to 1944.

If you have any other *E. coli* strains that you think might be worth while subjecting to a very simple test for crossability, I should be grateful for the opportunity of testing them.

Sincerely yours,

Joshua Lederberg.